

# PRESS RELEASE

## OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

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### **HIGH FINE PARTICLE LEVELS PREDICTED FOR SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2010**

*Potential for high ground-level ozone readings may affect sensitive groups*

INDIANAPOLIS – The city of Indianapolis forecasts Saturday, February 13, 2010 as a Knozone Air Quality Action Day for fine particles. The region's air quality may become unhealthy for individuals who are sensitive to air pollutants, and is categorized as "orange" on the Air Quality Index (AQI).

Tomorrow's AQI forecast indicates that fine particle levels will be elevated. Fine particles (soot) are released into the air when fuels like coal, natural gas, gasoline and diesel motor vehicle fuels, oil and wood are burned.

Many scientific studies have associated fine particle pollution with serious health problems, such as aggravated lung disease and decreased lung function, and it can trigger and intensify asthma attacks. Children, the elderly and people already suffering from lung disease are especially vulnerable to its effects.

Small changes in behavior on the part of individuals and businesses can prevent the formation of fine particle pollution. The public is asked to follow these guidelines:

- Turn off your car's engine whenever possible
- Limit the burning of firewood
- Combine errands into one trip or carpooling
- Use public transportation whenever possible.

Individuals – especially active children, the elderly and anyone suffering from lung disease – should also monitor their health on Knozone Air Quality Action Days. People who have any concerns about how air pollution affects their health should seek the advice of a physician.

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Knozone , a program of the Office of Sustainability, is a year-round voluntary air pollution reduction program for Indianapolis-Marion County. The program educates the public about the effects of ground-level ozone (smog) and fine particles (soot) on public health and the environment and promotes clean air strategies that help clean the air. For more information, please visit [www.knozone.com](http://www.knozone.com) or call (317) 327-4AIR for current air quality information.

Mayor Ballard launched SustainIndy and created the Office of Sustainability in October, 2008. SustainIndy is a bold and innovative enterprise aimed at delivering long-term cost savings to the city, building the local economy, improving our quality of life and enhancing our environmental and public health. Its efforts are designed to aggressively move Indianapolis forward in making it one of the most sustainable cities in the Midwest.